Creation of Additional Zones

2135. SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether he has introduced six additional zones to tone up administration of railways;

(b) if so, whether five of the existing zones remain headless;

(c) whether the zones do not have a regular General Manager;

(d) if so, the reasons for delay in opening these zones;

(e) whether this has caused great hinderence in meeting the earnings of the railways; and

(f) the time by which the Government propose to appoint heads on these zones?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (f) Officers-on-Special-Duty in General Managers' grade have already been posted in the six new zones.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) No, Sir.

Installation of Automatic Coffee/Tea Machines

2136. SHRI ANIL BASU: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a decision was taken to install automatic coffee/tea machines in vending stalls at Howrah Railway station;

(b) if so, the reasons for the delay to install such machine there; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to install such machines at Howrah vending stalls immediately?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Holiday Special Train

2137. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether in the month of December 1996, new train between Tirupati and Chennai was started as a Holiday Special Train for the months of December-January;

(b) if so, whether the Government propose to extend this new train further;

(c) if so, whether the turn-out of the passengers have been much more than the expectation; and

(d) if so, the time by which the final decision for its continuance is likely to be taken?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) It has been decided to introduce a regular service between Chennai and Tirupati.

North West Airlines Service to United States

2138. SHRI AJOY MUKHOPADHYAY: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the North west Airlines propose to inagurate its service from India to the United States via Amsterdam very soon;

(b) whether the Government are considering to approach the said Airlines to operate or to touch Calcutta on its flight from Delhi/Mumbai to Amsterdam;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons for not offering foreign airlines to operate or touch Calcutta as one of operational point from India?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM): (a) North West Airlines have approached the Director General of Civil Aviation for permission to operate to India via Amsterdam effective from June, 97.

(b) to (d) Calcutta is already available to the US carriers as a point of call. Actual operation is left to the Commercial judgement of the airline.

Decline of Sale

2139. SHRI HARADHAN ROY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the reasons for proportionate decline of sale from November, 1996 of Eastern Railway Catering Unit, Howrah North Wing Vending Stall compare to the previous year;

(b) whether the Government are considering to issue instructions to the DRM, Howrah and the Commercial Department of Eastern Railway to discuss the matter with the venders as well as with the staff of North wing Howrah Vending Stall to increase the proportionate sale;

(c) if so, the details thereof, and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ): (a) There is no decline in the sales.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.